

Recycling, Energy Conservation, and Community Beautification

Why It Matters and What You Can Do



Getting the Facts Straight

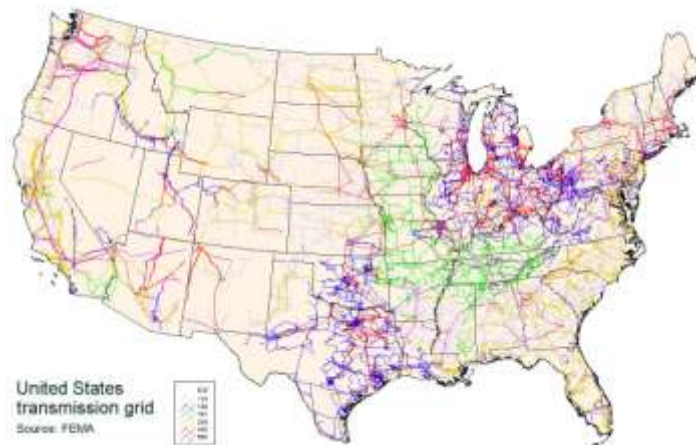
- An average American generates about 4.6 pounds of solid trash per day – or 17,000 pounds a year
- Proper handling of this waste saves energy and money, and protects our natural resources and environment



How Do We Make Energy?

- Step by Step:
 - We burn fuel to make water turn to steam
 - The steam is used to power turbines that create electricity
 - This electricity is then distributed and transmitted through an “energy grid”

**Extra credit: what different substances do we burn to make fuel?
And how do they effect the environment differently?**



Why is Saving Energy Important?

- Future generations (sustainability)
- Pollution
- Carbon Emissions
- Cost



How Does Recycling Save Energy?

- Recycling saves energy primarily because it reduces the need to extract and refine natural resources
- The energy needed to recycle many materials is less than the energy required to make it from scratch, even after accounting for the energy involved in collecting and sorting recyclables



Case: Recycled Aluminum

- Recycled aluminum only uses 5% of the energy and emissions needed to extract new aluminum
- Recycling just ONE aluminum can saves enough energy to watch TV for three hours

Case: Recycled Glass

- Generates 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than normal production of glass
- Uses 50% less energy
- Recycling of one glass container saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours

Case: Recycled Paper

- Recycled paper cuts energy usage by 60 percent energy, and its production uses 80 percent less water
- Recycled paper generates 95 percent less air pollution
- Recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 2 barrels of oil and 4100 kilowatt hours of energy – enough to power the average American home for six months
- Every year, enough paper is thrown away to make a 12-foot wall from New York to California

Case: Recycled Plastics

- Recycling a single plastic bottle can conserve enough energy to light a 60-watt light bulb for up to six hours.
- Recycled plastic bottles can be made into products such as clothing, carpeting, detergent bottles and lumber for outdoor decking.
- The production of plastic accounts for 4 percent of the energy consumption in the U.S.

What You Can Recycle

Metal

Aluminum and tin cans
Empty aerosol cans
Empty paint cans and lids
Aluminum foil
Pie tins/baking tins
Metal bottle caps

Glass

Glass jars and bottles

Paper and Cardboard

Newspaper and magazines
Cardboard boxes - flattened
Mail

Phone books

Hardcover and soft-cover books

Wrapping paper

Small Plastic Toys

Empty pizza boxes

Soda and beer cartons

Milk/OJ/Juice cartons

Ice cream cartons

Aseptic foil cartons

Paper coffee "cans"

Comet brand scrubber "cans"

Dishwasher detergent boxes
(with the metal spout)

Plastic

Plastics #1 - #7

5-gallon buckets/kitty litter
buckets

Bottle caps

Extra Credit!

What are all of the ways that you can encourage recycling and energy efficiency within your school and community?



Reuse: Get Creative



How can you reuse a lotion bottle?

How about...



**CLEAN OUT AN OLD LOTION BOTTLE FOR
YOUR BEACH BAG AND PUT YOUR PHONE,**



**MONEY, AND KEYS IN IT FOR
SAFER KEEPING AT THE BEACH**



**TURN AN OLD BOTTLE INTO A
SIMPLE LITTLE CORD HOLDER**

Now Let's Try a Paper Towel Roll...



How About...

Quick and easy iPhone speaker



And Just for Fun



Recycling & Energy Efficiency: The Big Picture

- Recycling and energy efficiency are a part of community beautification, which combats:
 - Litter
 - Graffiti
 - Illegal Dumping
 - Bandit Signs
 - Abandoned/Dilapidated Buildings
 - Vacant Lots

Why Does Community Beautification Matter?

- Associated with lower crime rates
 - A 2012 University of Pennsylvania report showed that “greened” vacant land is correlated with a reduction in the number of reported crimes, including gun crimes
- Encourages economic development
- Adds to a positive reputation for the neighborhood
- Creates community attachment / loyalty
- Combats environmental degradation

In short, beautification leads to safer, more cohesive neighborhoods with more and better jobs!

Why does a community's appearance deteriorate in the first place?

- People feel no ownership or pride in their community
- People wait for others to take responsibility for their community (diffusion of responsibility)



What Can You Do Besides Reuse and Recycle?

- Work with your block captain
- Start a community garden (they reduce crime, too!)
- Plant trees
- Create public art
- Talk to friends and neighbors
- Organize a cleanup
- Go to community meetings – get involved!
- Report crumbling buildings to the City
- Report illegal dumping and trash-filled lots
- Get to know your elected officials

Who's Here to Help You?

- Philadelphia's 311 call system and mobile application
- CDCs and BIDs
- Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee
- Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
- Your elected officials



And Remember...

When working towards community beautification:

- Have a plan that tries to engage the whole community
- Keep your efforts sustainable
- Make it fun and easy to take part in community beautification efforts



Questions?



Contact me!
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